

REMARKS

Claims in the case are 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 17-19 and 21-27. Claims 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 14, 16 and 20 were cancelled in a previous Amendment dated 14 July 2003. Claims 1, 11 and 13 were cancelled previously in a Preliminary Amendment dated 17 August 2001. Claim 17 has been amended and will be discussed further herein. No claims have been added, and no claims have been cancelled herein.

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed with regard to the amendments herein and the following remarks.

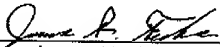
Claim 17 has been amended to include Markush language prior to (c)(i) and in each of (c)(i) and (c)(ii) .

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' claims are deemed to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which they regard as their invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication on page 2 of the Office Action of 3 October 2003, that Claims 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 18, 19 and 21-27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection [of Claim 17] under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as set forth in the Office Action. As discussed previously herein, Claim 17 has been amended to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, all of the presently pending claims are deemed to be in condition for allowance.

In light of the amendments herein and the preceding remarks, Applicants' presently pending claims are deemed to meet all the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and to define an invention that is unanticipated, unobvious and hence, patentable. Reconsideration of the rejections, allowance of all of the presently pending claims, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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